

## **NEVADA STATE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**

### **Mycobacteriology (AFB/TB) Culture**

#### **Specimen Collection and Handling**

- Sputum: Collect three early morning specimens on consecutive days (one per day). The healthcare professional must give instructions for producing sputum, especially for the first specimen. The patient's mouth should be clean before producing a specimen. Instruct the patient NOT to rinse his mouth with tap water, which may contain saprophytic mycobacteria.
- Sputum should be coughed from deep in the chest and placed in the container(s) provided.
- Make sure the specimen container (the 50 mL conical centrifuge tube) is labeled with the patient's name, specimen source and the date of collection
- The optimal amount of sputum sample is 5 mL. Do not submit more than 10 mL sputum for any individual collection.
- AFB recovery is optimized if the sample gets to the lab as soon after collection as possible, but if that is impractical, refrigerate samples until delivery is possible.

#### **Complete Test Request Form**

- A NSPHL TB Test Request Form must be filled out completely. Please indicate if the patient is a known tuberculosis case.

#### **Unacceptable Specimens**

- 24 hour pooled sputum
- <1 mL saliva

#### **Collection Kit**

- The collection kit is made up of three sterile screw capped containers, 3 sterile 50 mL conical centrifuge tubes and a NSPHL Test Request form.